1841
Declaration
of
Faith

PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS

267

OHIO
Union Village

Declaration of Prudence Parkhurst. D. Order, Union Village, chh.
Oct. 2d. 1841.

"I now thankfully Embrace the opportunity of writing my sincere feelings, faith, determination & thankfulness, for the notice of blessed Mother to me, thro' her late manifestations. This I can do with freedom; for I truly feel thankful for the many precious gifts which she has bestowed upon me, from time to time. And I can say in true sincerity, that I felt thankful when Mother first began her late purifying work in this place; and it was my earnest desire to be found worthy to be a partaker in it; and it has been my earnest prayer to walk worthy of her continual notice & blessing to the end. It is my faith that the work of God will go on & increase, & that no evil can abide in it; altho' mother should cease to sound her lovely voice on earth. I can say, I truly feel thankful for the precious gifts of Mother; and I pray that they may be as an abiding treasure to my soul — through time and eternity; I know they will if I prove faithful: — for I have felt so much of the inward heart-felt work of Mother, that I know there is nothing that ever can take it from me but wil-

ful

disobedience; and it is my determination not to be found in that State, but walk in simple obedience to the requirements of the gospel, bless my precious lead, and endure faithful to the end, thro' every trial that may come in my way. I feel thankful to blessed Mother for noticing me with her Holy power, for I have felt it when poor and needy.

I feel thankful to the Beloved Ministry and Elders for their protecting care & help, to keep me in the strait & narrow path of mother. I feel thankful for hearing her voice and those with her; this I esteem as a great privilege. I feel thankful for the day that I was called to take up my cross, ~~& follow~~ deny myself and follow her thro' deep tribulation.

Now I feel thankful for the privilege of expressing my thanks, for the many blessings from Mother to me. They are a rich treasure; I love them; I prize them: Nay, I would not exchange them for mountains of Gold. — This privilege I embrace in the solemn fear of God.

Here I sign my name to the above. —— Prudence Parkhurst.

By the request of my everblessed Mother, I will also state the length of time that I have been among God's peculiar people together with my age.

I was born in the State of Pennsylvania, Washington County; on the 7th of March, 1810. And was brought by my Parents to the State of Ohio, Warren County,- Union Village, Nov. 20th.- 1815. Here I have lived ever since among God's peculiar people; a privilege, for which I feel very thankful.

P. Parkhurst.

Declaration of faith 86. by Sally Lucas, 2d Order Union Village. (Chh.)

Oct. 5th 1841.

"I now commence writing my feelings of gratitude and thankfulness; also my faith & determination. I can truly say I have full faith in Mother's late work, and have had, ever since the first commencement of it; and my faith is still increasing in it,- yea I ful fully satisfied that it is increasing, & I feel thankful that I have a privilege to increase with it. I can truly say in the fear of God, that I feel thankful to my Blessed Mother, for her notice to me in her late manifestation: For I know of a truth, that She has noticed and blessed me with heavenly gifts of God; for which I feel truly thankful in my measure; and it shall be my labor to be more

thankful for the gifts of God; for I truly prize them above all earthly pleasures. And I can truly say that I love the Orders of God; and my determination is, to walk in obedience to them, thro' time & eternity.

I feel thankful to the Beloved Ministry for their Parental care; nay, my tongue cannot express the love and tender feelings that I have felt flow from them; and I feel fully resolved to show my thankfulness by walking in obedience to their counsel. Likewise, I thank my Elders, in whom I have unshaken confidence, for their unwearied labors for my good; Yea I feel that my love & thanks are due, to all my beloved Elders, throughout, for their charity & forbearance with me; for I feel that it is thro' their tender love & charity, that I have been able to stand against the opposing tide of nature. Yea, I know it is by the prayrs and supplications of the Beloved Ministry & Elders, that I have been able to keep the gifts of Mother in a small measure.

I am truly thankful that I was called to walk in the path of self-denial, and learn the way of truth; while I was yet in my youth. Yea I am thankful that I am counted worthy to suffer deep tribulation,

that I may become a child of Mother. I do sincerely thank all my heavenly Parents for their love and charity, and the many blessings they have bestowed upon me from time to time; and it shall be my labor to wisely improve them. Likewise, I feel thankful to the beloved Lead in the Mother church, for their unbounded love and charity, and their faithful labors for our good. I truly know they are the Lord's anointed to lead his chosen people upon Earth; and have waded in deep tribulation, and earnestly cried to God that we might be protected from the snares of evil.

I am thankful for my pretty home; yea I feel thankful that I have a privilege to work out my salvation in the fear of God. And I have full faith, that if I keep the Orders of Zion, they will keep me; and protect me from all harm: And it is my firm determination, so to do. Yea I feel determined to Endure the purifying work of Mother to the end. Also, I feel thankful for this privilege of expressing my faith and determination; and I willingly sign to it my name and age; and the length of time I have been among God's peculiar people. I was born in the State of Vermont, in the Town of Woodstock, October 5th 1810. and was brought by my Mother among God's peculiar people, Oct. 10th 1818. being then 8 yr. old. Sally Lucas.

Declaration of faith, &c. by Rachel Galloway; 2d. Order, chh. Union Village

October 4th 1841.

"I can truly say that I do feel thankful for this present privilege, to express in short, my faith and feelings; for I esteem it a particular notice from Mother. Likewise I can say that I truly feel thankful to my ever Blessed Mother, for her particular notice to me, from time to time, thro' her late manifestation. For I know of a truth, that I have felt the givings of her Spirit in various ways. Yea, I have felt her searching power run thro' my soul like fire; and surely it was the fire of God to search out evil and cleanse my soul from sin;- This I feel is a great blessing to me. Also, I feel thankful for the Blessed privilege which Holy Mother has given me, of hearing, and resounding the words of my Heavenly Parents; and I also feel thankful to the good Ministry, and my good Elders, for their peculiar care to help me to walk in obedience where I could feel the blessing.

Now I can testify of a truth, that I feel determined to walk in strict obedience to the counsel of my visible Lead, whom God in his wisdom, has, & will place, to lead and direct his chosen people. Yea, I have full faith in

the blessed work of God, which was revealed to man by blessed Mother Ann; and has been faithfully kept by her true followers — pure & undefiled to this day. Yea, I feel assured by the understanding which I have received by the counsel of Mother's true children, that I will gain my soul's salvation, by taking up my cross & denying myself of every thing that is evil. This I feel determined to do; yea, I feel determined to endure faithful to the end of my life; let the cost be what it may, I mean to follow on in the strait and narrow way, which has been trodden by many. Yea the way is so plain that I doubt it not; but I feel assured that by walking in simple obedience to the requirements of Mother's gospel, that I shall gain my soul's salvation, which feels more precious to me than all this world can afford. But I feel that I have not words to express my thankfulness to God for the privilege which I daily enjoy.

These few words I write in solemn fear, — believing that this declaration of mind, will be kept thro' time, and in eternity. —

To this I sign my name; —— Rachel Galloway. —

I was born in the State of Ohio, Union County & Union Township, Darby Plains.

I was born Feb. 19th. 1816. And I was brought by my mother to live among God's peculiar people in the year 1824: on Mond. 9th. Feby. and have lived among them ever since. I am now in my 26th. year.

R. G. ——

Declaration of faith &c. by Mary A. Siddil. 2d. Order, chh. Up. Village

Oct. 6th. 1841.

"I now take my pen in hand to write my feelings of thankfulness, likewise, my faith and determination. I do, in the solemn fear of God, thank my heavenly Mother, for her notice to me in her late manifestation, for she has truly noticed and blessed me with her quickening Power: yea, her beautiful and heavenly gifts, which I do prize above all earthly things; for they will endure thro' time and Eternity; yea, the blessing of mother is of more worth than all that this world can ever invent.

O how thankful I do feel for my precious privilege among God's chosen people. I can truly say, I thank my heavenly Mother for her notice to me, in blessing me with the privilege of speaking for her, O

those with her; I know it is a blessed gift of God given to me by my Heavenly Mother; I can truly say that I do not feel worthy of such notice, but it has been my labor, in my measure, to be faithful and wisely improve it; and I now feel determined to be more faithful for the time to come.

I feel thankful to my good Ministry for their protecting care; and my Beloved Elders for their charity & forbearance; for I feel that it is by their help & protection, that I have been kept in the blessed way of God; — Yea, I feel, that of myself, I can do nothing aright; but it is my faith, that if I am willingly obedient to their teaching, I will always be under the notice & protection of God; yea, in obedience is safety, and on obedience depends my soul's salvation: and my determination is to be more simple & obedient every day that I live; that I may be owned by all my heavenly Parents.

I do not feel that I have words to express my feelings of thankfulness which I feel towards all my heavenly Parents. But this I know, that they see and know the feelings of my soul, better than I could possibly

relate them to any one. I do mean to be more alive in the increasing work of Mother, for I feel that I have not a moment to lose in vain. I mean to be faithful & honest, and obey the call which God has given me. I know I must pass thro' deep tribulation, before I can be owned as a true child of Mother, but this does not discourage me, but I mean to be persevering in the path of self-denial; Yea, I feel determined to endure faithful to the end. Then I will truly gain a bright crown and a pretty home in the mansions of Glory.

Now as the notice of Mother to me has been great, I cheerfully comply with her request, to sign to the above my name, & age, with the length of time I have been among God's peculiar people.

I was born in the State of Ohio, County of Warren & Turtle creek Township — January 23d. 1823. — And was brought among God's peculiar people, May 1st 1831. — being then in the 7th year of my age.

Mary Ann Liddle.

Declaration of faith &c. of Susanna Parkhurst. } Second Family, Union Village, Oct. 7.. 1841.

"I will now take my pen in my hand, and in the solemn fear of God, write the feelings of my soul.

I was born Nov. 12th. 1814, and was brought among God's chosen people by my Parents, Nov. 1815. Tho' I was young at this time, and unable to sense my precious privilege; yet I firmly believe I was protected by the hand of God, till I was able to make my final choice. This I did in Dec. 1837. at which time I received deep conviction of soul, and plainly saw that I was lost from God by evil works. And not having at this time, strength & resolution enough, to burst the bands of death, by which I was so strongly bound; I felt that my soul was at stake, and I prayed earnestly to God for help, and for some heavenly manifestation to satisfy my needy soul. The year following, I heard many cheering reports about the mighty power & work of God then at New Lebanon & other places East; which made me feel a solemn reverence & Godly fear, for I believed the day of judgment was near at hand

and that I would soon be called to meet that solemn day. ——

I now continued to pray to God for help, and that I might be prepared to receive the power of God, - till in Nov. 1839. when the light and power of God burst forth into my soul, and I received it with joy and gladness, and it was truly refreshing. - Tho' I felt at this time, mean & unworthy of such kind notice from my heavenly Parents; for of a truth, I was abundantly blessed with many heavenly gifts. I received many beautiful little songs, to strengthen & help me along, and was under the operation of the power of God continually for some length of time.

O that I could plainly state my feelings of thankfulness and gratitude, for my privilege in the present manifestation of the work of God; but I cannot. My tongue can never tell, nor my pen describe the comfort I have already taken in Mother's pretty work: Yea, I can truly say, I feel thankful to my blessed Mother, & to all my Heavenly Parents: and also to my Beloved

& Elders,

for the charity and mercy that has been extended to me. But above all things, I feel the most thankful for my solemn & sacred calling - to work for Mother, and do her holy will: and it is my determination to be faithful in it.

It is also my faith and determination to be obedient, and walk in the straight & narrow path of self-denial & the cross; & keep the holy Laws & orders of Zion pure & unspotted, and stand firm, unshaken & faithful to the End.

Susannah Parkhurst.

Declaration of faith &c. by Mary Ann Jennings. Second Family.

Union Village Oct. 7th 1841.

"I was born in the State of Ohio, Richland County: March 24th 1823; And was brought among God's chosen people by my Parents, on May 5th 1832. I was not then able to sense the need of my soul's salvation; but I am thankful I was called while I was young, and kept by the protecting hand of God, till I was able to receive faith and understanding, & make

a choice for myself. — I was about 13 years of age when I first began to feel the convicting power of God; and since that I find it indispensable to confess & forsake sin, in order to be owned, & be able to keep the Gospel.

About this time, I heard of the youth & children at New Lebanon, being found on their knees praying to God, and that they were wonderfully wrought upon by his mighty Power; This caused me to feel deep conviction, for I knew I had sinned against God; and that I must confess and repent of this, or I never could be like the good little children that I heard of at New Lebanon.

So I prayed earnestly to God, and conscientiously confessed all the sin I had ever committed, with a determination to be good; and I have never since that time, felt like forsaking the way of God: But I have always sensed, in some degree, the great & wonderful day of my calling. But when I heard of the late wonderful work of God that had begun in the East, and that Mother had promised to visit the Believers in the West also; I felt my soul awakened to

prayer & supplication; for I believed the things I heard; and I desired greatly to see Mother when she should come, for I believed she would fulfil the word she had promised. About the time Mother had promised to come, I had some very solemn & weighty impressions, for I believed the morning of the great day of God had come; and ~~I~~ about this time, while I was sitting in singing meeting one sabbath afternoon, I felt my spirit withdrawn in a measure, from the things of time; but did not sense or see any thing of the spiritual world, but when I rose up to walk about the room, I felt as if I had been a long time gone from home; for every thing around me looked new and strange: I felt as if I was surrounded by a wilderness, which caused a gloomy darkness to hang over me.

This left a weighty impression on my mind, and I prayed earnestly that Mother would come and do her work; and that I might be one of her chosen number. And when Mother did come and begin her late work in the West, I labored earnestly that I might be a true partaker of her gifts; accordingly, in the latter part of 1838, I was wonderfully wrought upon with

divers kinds of exercise; such as jerking, bowing, shaking, turning, dancing and walking, and in many other ways. And in all these exercises, I labored to keep the fear of God, that I might receive the gift of Inspiration and behold Spiritual things. But I did not receive this gift till the beginning of 1839, when I had been wrought upon by bodily exercise for about 3 months: Then the gift of Inspiration was given to me; & I began to speak for Mother & those with her.

And I can truly say, I am thankful for the privilege I have had in this gift. Yea, I am thankful I was called to be a bearer of Mother's Holy word, and I am not ashamed of my gift and calling, for I have found a blessing in it: And I am determined to devote all my time & talents to build up & support the way of God, and honor the gospel; for I am willing to suffer deep tribulation & be subject to my Mother: yea, I will be subject to her Holy Anointed on earth, & then I know she will own and bless me.

I have full faith in this last and wonderful display of the mighty

Power of God on earth; for I know it is from heaven; and that no one can shun the just judgments of God. I am truly thankful that I have a privilege in this day; and it shall be my labor, to so walk, that I will be willing to meet this Declaration in the Eternal World.

I feel determined to be faithful, and abide in the gospel through time & in Eternity. Yea, I feel willing to lay my life down, and give up all, to be one of the number that shall receive the promised prize.

I feel determined to be subject to my visible Head, & keep down in the Low valley - where I can work for Mother to her acceptance, and cheerfully do all the good I can.

These are the true feelings of my soul; and now I will solemnly promise my Mother, my Ministry & my Elders, that I will be faithful and hold out to the End, and cheerfully subject my own will, & do all that is required of me.

Mary A. Jennings

Declaration of faith &c. by Sarah Ann Babbit. Second Family.

Union Village, Oct 7th 1841.

"I was born, Janʸ 4th 1819. Butler County, State of Ohio. And was brought by my Parents among Believers; in June following.

About the first of Oct. 1838, being under heavy conviction, and sensing my lost state, which before this time I never had really felt, and having heard of the heart searching, and purifying work of Mother which had began in the East, in which I believed; I earnestly prayed, that Mother would visit her children in the West: For I felt willing to make any sacrafice, to feel and know, that I was owned of Mother.

In November, 1838, Mother began her work in this place, for which I sincerely felt thankful; for I felt determined to bow low, to whatever was for me. I was blessed with visions, and operations of the power of God; and with a great many songs. Holy Mother, also blessed me with the solemn gift of inspiration. And I can truly say, I feel thankful, and will ever bow low, for my blessed privilege in Mothers work.

I have full faith, in the present revelation from Heaven; and it is my determination to be faithful, and stand firm, and unshaken, to the end.

For I believe this is the way of God; and the only way I can ever be saved from sin. I feel determined to build up, and support the gospel, and make it my daily labour to keep the holy orders of Zion; for they are a wall of protection to my soul. I feel thankful, I have a privilege to walk the straight and narrow path of self-denial: I mean to keep in it, day by day; by giving up my own will, and yielding strict obedience to my lead. In doing this, I feel comfort and peace to my soul; which I would not exchange for all the pleasures this vain world can give. And in this pretty way, I mean to walk, and make it my only treasure; for with Mothers children, I mean to abide for ever.

Sarah A. Babbit.

Declaration of Faith 66. by Loretta E. Hunt. 1st Ord. North House.

Union Village, Oct 6th 1841.

"I was born in the State of Virginia, Harrison County, Augt 20th 1799. My

My Parents moved to the State of Ohio, in 1801. In 1805, when the first messengers of Mothers gospel, came to this country, my Parents belonged to the New-lights Church; they early embraced the testimony of Christs second appearance. In March, 1806, they moved to this place, which is now called Union Village, to join with the little society that was then forming in this place. I lived with my Parents, untill the year 1811, when I was taken under the care of the Church. I received faith, at the age of 8. or 9 years of age, with conviction for all my disobedience & sin. I was taught to confess all my sins, and forsake them; and as early as when I was 10 years old, I was strictly taught, never to attempt to go into the worship of God, with any known sin on my conscience.

This I strictly kept through my youthful days, and for which I felt rewarded, and greatly blessed. Many times, in my childhood and youth, I was blessed with the living power of God - with involuntary exercise, and heavenly sensations, as much as my vessel could hold; which has ever been a strength and help to me in darker days of trial; For which I have reason

to be thankful

to my Heavenly Parents forever. But as I came to riper years, my sense of heavenly things, became more dim: I found that by giving way to pride and selfsufficiency, I lost in a great degree, my love and taste, for the gifts of God: I often found, that my soul was left dark and barren; that I scarcely had a ray of light, to steer by: but still my first faith would sometimes, rouse up my slumbering soul, to that degree, that I would often think that I must, sink in eternal ruin. And thus I spent my time for several years, in sorrow and tribulation, with but little profit to the soul; for when I gave way to that which was not congenial to my faith, I was as often convicted of my error, and would pray to God, that I might be protected, and held on gospel ground, untill I could find an increase, in the way of God. At length we heard that Mother had appeared to her children in the East, that the work of God, had began anew, with mighty power, to make a final end of sin: And joyful was the solemn sound, to my weary soul; for I longed to to have my soul unshackeled, that I might again feel the blessings of Heaven. I wanted, to again feel the quickning power of God; for without it, I could never find salvation.

We were often called upon to be prepared, to receive Mother, and her finishing

work; which at length appeared among us; and dreadful was the hour, to that soul, that was unprepared. Altho. for some time I had been striving to be prepared to meet that day, yet when it came, my feelings were past discription; for I could see no good that I had to recommend me to the mercy of Mother. I almost gave up my soul to dispair; it appeared as tho all my lost nature was placed before my eyes at once, and that I had not good enough in me, to begin to build upon. But I gave my soul to prayer, and my tongue to confession, till I felt my soul released. I felt anxious, and prayed that I might receive a portion of the gifts and power of God, which in different ways, and at different times, were poured on me; and it felt like flames of fire to my proud nature. But I can say in sincerity of heart, I am thankful for every admonition that I have received; and I mean to labour for the spirit of thankfulness till I learn to prize the gifts of heaven above every thing that Earth can afford. I was visited for several months, alternately, with operations and exercises of body, at intervals; and unworthy as I was, I at length received the gift of visions, and have been blessed with the sight of heavenly things

which often has filled my soul with sweet consolation and heavenly joy; for which I feel truly thankful, to my ever blessed Mother; and from hence forth, and forever, I will make it my delight, to strictly keep the way of God, in humble submission to my lead, who are placed for my protection.

My Faith enters in true subjection to the gift of God, where ever it is placed; for I know I can find salvation on no plan, and I want it on no cheaper terms: And I pray to my Heavenly Parents, for strength and wisdom to direct me, when the tying hours of tribulation roll in upon my soul; for it is my full determination to keep the way of God, in its purity; through time and through eternity. I feel thankful to my Heavenly Mother, for her unbounded goodness to me. I am thankful to my loving Ministry, and Elders, who have taught me the way of selfdenial, and borne with me, & bestowed their blessing and charity on my poor needy soul.

Loretta E. Hunt.

Declaration of faith &c, Susan C. Liddil. First Order, North House.

Union Village, Oct 5th, 1841.

I was born in the State of Ohio, Warren County, Turtle-creek township; June the 4th 1824. I was brought among Believers, June 20th 1836; while in the eleventh year of my age. In two weeks after I came, I was moved to the childrens family, where I was taught to confess my sins, and to forsake them; and learn to be strictly obedient to my Caretakers, and never attempt to go forth in the worship of God, with disobedience, or any other known sin covered; which I felt conciencious to do for a while. In the year 1837, when I heard of the children in the East, crying and praying, to Mother to protect them, and keep them out of evil; and how they were blessed with the powerful opperations, and gifts of Heaven, I earnestly desired to partake of the same: I prayed as well as I could for conviction and repentance; and to be waked up to see and sense my awful condition; I wanted to be blessed with the notice and gifts of Mother.

At length, in Dec. 1838, when I felt Mothers power first; I was in our own room; Our Caretaker gave us liberty to have a little meeting to our selves. Two of the girls were opperated upon; then some of the Brethren & Sisters

came to sing for us; and when I felt the power coming on me, I was at a loss to know what was the matter: I stoped about in the center, and could not labour, walk, or move my self in any way. I stood in this silent attitude, some minutes; when sudenly I was siezed with a shaking and jerking, I was jerked so that I did not know which side of the room I was on, or the Brethren and Sisters apart: I could not perceive that I had any strength left me, for some time. I tried to resist it awhile, till I found that the more I strove against it, the harder I went. This exercise continued with me about three hours, without any cessation. From this time on, for the space of four or five months, I was sufficiently blessed with Mothers power; more than I really loved, or felt thankful for. In the mean time, Mother sent word to me, through one of her instruments, to labour for a gift to read spiritual writings: She said she had placed a piece on the wall in the meeting room, I must labour hard till I could see to read it. But before I had gained a gift of seeing clear enough to read it, I was called in the visionary line. I prayed and laboured to get hold of the gift of reading, and a gift of visions also: And by the strength, support, and encouragement of my good Ministry

and Elders, together with the help of the visionists, I gained a measure of both, which I have sincerely felt thankful for; and I pray to gain a greater degree of it than I have yet attained to. I thank my heavenly Parents, for so kindly noticing me, while in my youthful days: I have been abundantly blessed with Mothers gifts I know; and it shall be my labour to keep them in mind, and treasure them up, and prize them above all earthly things. The gospel is precious and lovely; I am thankful I have a privilege in it, to work out my salvation. I love the gospel, and it is my intention to keep it in its purity. I am thankful I have good Elders to instruct me in the way that is right. I truly love them, and I mean to walk in obedience; I have made the gospel my choice; and it shall stand through time, tho crosses and trials may come in my way, and temptations and enticing charms appear before my eyes; yet nothing shall lead me astray. I love my home in Zion, and I mean to keep it.

Susan C. Liddil.

Declaration of faith &c, by Susanna M. Brady. First Order, North House.

Union Village, Oct. 8th 1841.

I was born in Indiana, Madison County, Jefferson Township, on the 21st day of Nov. 1824; and was brought by my Mother to the society of Believers at Union Village, Jany. 20th 1833; where I have been brought up and protected so far, from the filth and pollution of this wicked world; and have been taught how to fear God in all things, and have been shown the path that leads to eternal life, - if I am only careful to walk in it; which I do intend to do.

I do feel thankful thankful for my privilege in the gospel, I prize it above all things. yea I do thank my ever blessed Mother, for her kindness and mercy to me, for placing me in her pretty fold of protection, where I can learn how to serve the Lord, and do his holy will while I am young, in the place of spending my days in idleness, and in sin. I mean to improve my privilege by bearing a daily cross against all evil, and learn to keep the holy orders of Mothers gospel; be submissive to those who are placed to protect and watch over me; be truly honest, and strive to walk worthy of the privilege I enjoy. In doing this, I believe I will find the salvation that is desi

able to my soul. There is nothing so lovely to me, as the gospel; its beauties are without end. Although temptations, may before me raise, and enticing charms, before me be displayed; yet nothing shall lead my soul from the way of God. There is no happiness and peace, like the peace of a clear conscience; therefore I will steer through the tempest, and stand through every storm; and with the sword that Mother gave me, fight my way to heaven.

The comfort and peace, that I daily enjoy in the gospel, surpasses all the pleasure that this world can afford; besides being assured of everlasting happiness here after. In the year 1839, about a year after Mothers work began here, I was blessed with the sights of heavenly things, a privilege for which I felt thankful, and laboured hard to gain. In the first of Mothers work, when the exercising power of God began, I was not wrought upon as many were, and I thought it was because I had not opened my mind good; and often I would get up in the night, and earnestly beg and pray, for some good spirit to tell me what it was, that hindered me from feeling Mothers power; & if it was any thing wrong that I had not confessed, I would quickly put it out of the way.

Finally Mother blessed me with the gift of geting songs. I would often fall down on the floor, while in meeting, insensible of anything that was going on; and I can say in truth, that I never felt so comfortable in my life, as I do, when I feel Mothers power. I know I have been blessed with Mothers heavenly gifts; and I pray I may always keep low enough to receive them; and I know I will, if I keep close to my Elders. So, with a full determination to abide in my present faith, & determination to the end of time, I subscribe my name.

Susanna M. Brady.

Declaration of faith &c, of Oliver C. Hampton. First Order. Oct 8th 1848.

In compliance with a gift to that effect; I will now proceed to state in writing what my faith and feelings are, concerning the great work of God, which has lately been in this place, and elsewhere; and which was ushered in, by our ever blessed Mother Ann. And as I have been called in this work, to be a messenger for Mother; or as it is generally termed, a visionist or instrument, through which to minister her precious gifts, and make known her holy will; I will freely express my faith and feelings on this point particularly.

When Mothers holy and purifying work commenced here, I had full faith and confidence in it, which was soon verified to me in such a manner, as rendered it impossible for me to doubt of its truth, or its divine origin in the least.

This was done by a message which I received, through a visionist, and which set forth to me, not only my daily outward deportment, but also held up to plain view the most secret thoughts of my mind; which of course I knew could not be known by the inspired one, only, through and by, supernatural means.

Being made able by this to see my real situation, and the extent of my loss from God, I was moved to pray, and cry mightily to Him for strength and power to overcome the enemies of my soul; and after labouring for some weeks in this line, I was called to work for Mother: and altho I felt utterly incapable, and unworthy the calling, yet I felt that I must obey the teaching, and requirement of my visible head, if I ever expected to be saved; and therefore I engaged in it; & this has always been the principle by which I have laboured to be governed, in my labours in this line, as well as all other things.

I believe fully, yea I am well satisfied, that I had many real and substantial gifts from the heavenly world; and I feel to say, that for all the notice

in this gift of visions, messages and heavenly gifts, with which my ever blessed Mother has seen fit to bless me. I feel exceedingly thankful, and shall ever labour to derive benefit from them at every recollection of the same. I have full faith in this last and final call of God, to the children of men (to wit) the second appearing of Christ, through our ever blessed Mother Ann; I believe that in obedience to this call as it is proclaimed to me, through God's holy anointing (the visible head) upon Earth, I shall find full salvation, and gain the Kingdom of Heaven.

And I hereby promise in the solemn fear of God, that I will obey this call of God to me. That I will obey strictly this gospel, keeping my faith unspotted, and sacrificing all that is "earthly, sensual and devilish, to gain life everlasting.

I also make this declaration of my faith, and determination, fully believing that this is the first thing I shall meet, when I enter eternity. I was born in the State of Ohio, Harrison County, & town of the same name; in the year of our Lord, 1817, Apl 2nd, and am now (1841) in my 25th year.

I have lived with Gods peculiar people, 19 years.

Oliver C. Hampton.

Declaration of faith &c, by Philip F. Antes. Second Order, Chh. N Village

Oct 8th 1841.

To express my faith in full, I say in the first place; that I believe in the testimony of the gospel, as it was first opened to me; I believe that by an honest confession of all known sin, and by a life of self denial, and strict obedience to my visible lead, I shall surely find complete salvation from all sin; and ultimately, from the very nature of evil.

And in relation to the present manifestation of God; Mothers work: I feel full confidence. And surely there is no one, who has better reasons for believing it than I. yea, I feel thankful at every recollection, of the first sound of Mothers voice, that touched my soul, and waked me up to sense the goodness and mercy of God; and our ever blessed Mother.

I feel sincerely thankful, for the special notice of Mother, in permiting me, to be called as on of Her messengers; and for the many precious gifts and ministration I received while in that gift; and also for the mortification. I also feel full confidence, in the increase of the present work; I believe it will make the final seperation, between good and evil; notwithstanding all the unbelief and

opposition the adversary can present. I feel thankful to the good Ministry, for their charity and forbearance with me; and in a very special manner, to Elder Gregiff. Also, to all my kind Elders. As to my determination; I feel no other, than to be subject in all things, to the gift of God, where ever it is placed; and to be faithful to the end. And that I may be able to do this, I sincerely crave the prayers of the good Ministry, Elders, Brethren and Sisters.

This is in short, my faith, feelings, and determination; and I feel thankful for the privilege of writing them. — I was born, Apr. 29th 1799. in the County of Northumberland, and town of the same name, State of Pennsylvania.

And I began to confess my sins, on the 24th or 25th of Feby. 1825. —

Philip F. Antes.

Declaration of faith &c. by Elizabeth Farr, Gathering Order. Ne Village

Oct. 1841.

I have a privilege from my beloved Ministry and Elders, to write the feelings of my soul; and to express my faith and determinations. I was brought among the people of God, when about six years old, and have had a privilege to learn

the way of God in my youth, for which I feel very thankful. It is my faith to yield subjection to the order of God, placed on Earth, to protect his people; to be obedient to my Elders and keep their counsel in all things; and to deny my self, & learn to love my Brethren and Sisters as my self. In this I feel confident I will be protected from sin, and gain a just relation to Gods people.

I feel thankful for my privilege in the gospel: yea I feel thankful to Mother for her notice to me, she has blessed me with many precious gifts: She has blessed me with the gift of repentance; an enabled me to see my lost state, and the means by which I might come into the light and be owned of Her. Yea, She has filled my soul, with Her holy power, and gave me a spiritual sight and sense, that I might be useful to Her, in bearing her holy word to her children. And I feel determined to bow my soul in obedience to Her holy will, and to be faithful to the end. Yea it is my full determination, to walk in obedience to her holy order; and simply do as I am taught by my blessed leads. — I was born in the State of Ohio, blank County, Madison township, on the 16th day of October 1821. And am now twenty years old.

Elizabeth Farr.

Declaration of Faith &c by Eliza Hampton. Gathering Order, N. Village.

Oct 6th 1841.

I was born the 24th day of October, in the year 1821, in the County of Clinton, State of Ohio — I was brought among the people of God by my Parents, in the year 1822. I will be twenty years old the 24th of this month.

I feel thankful for the privilege to obey this solemn requirement of Mother; and I will honestly state the true feelings of my soul. Mother in Her last manifestation, has blessed me with many heavenly gifts; and She has poured Her blessings upon me bountifully, for which I feel sincerely thankful, and I will promise, that I will show my thankfulness by my obedience to Her holy order that She has set for my protection. It is my faith and determination, to walk in the light, to keep nothing hid from my Elders, but always let them know the true state of my soul, that they may be able to help me, when I need it; for without their help I know I cannot stand.

The gospel of Mother is my all and treasure; it is all the treasure I want, and I am thankful for the privilege I have, to gain it by suffering and tribulation. — I know I have a precious privilege in Mothers gospel, and I will

improve it. Yea Mother, I will, for you have spared nothing, you have fed and nourished my poor needy soul, from your pure fountains, and in thankfulness, will I obey your Holy precepts. I will keep down, in the path of simple obedience, let mortifications do its work, for there is protection.

It is my determinations, to stand firm in Mothers work, let what will come, for I know if I am faithful and obedient, I will never be left without support. — I have no other intention, only to press on in the work of Mother, for I know it will protect my soul from sin, and subdue that sinful nature that is in me. I will thankfully sacrafice all that I have to gain a true relation to Mothers faithful children.

I will now solemnly, in the fear of God, promise Mother, that I will obey my faith, through time and eternity. — Eliza Hampton. —

Declaration of faith. &c by Polly Eastwood. Water Vliet. Ohio.
Sept 30th 1841.

I was born December 2nd. 1794, in the State of Kentucky, Jeffersons County. There my Parents lived till I was 6 years old, when they moved to the State of Ohio.

there the gospel found them, and they set out to obey it, in the year 1807. I set out the same year, to confess my sins, and take up my cross, being then 13 years old; and I have ever been thankful, that I received the gospel when I was young. and I now feel thankful for the privilege I have, of manifesting my faith and thankfulness for the gospel.

It is my determination to persevere on in Mothers work, for it is a purifying work, and I do not know how to express my thankfulness for the privilege I have with Mothers faithful children, where I can enjoy the gifts and blessings of heaven, through my obedience to the order of God; for this will enable me to endure all tribulation and trials, that I have to pass through. And how can I be thankful enough for so great a privilege. It is through the charity and mercy of my blessed Mother, that I have a good Ministry and Elders, to teach me the way of God. and it is my faith and determination to persevere on in Mothers self denying work, for it is the life of my soul. There is nothing so dear to me as eternal life. O! that I could sense my privilege more, and be more thankful for it; for this gospel is my only treasure, and what little I have gained since Mothers work began here, is more precious to

me, than all the treasures of this world. O how thankful I feel for Mothers work; yea I am thankful I have lived to see it. And I can say in truth, that my faith in Mothers gospel, has never failed since I first received it; tho floods of darkness rolled in on every side, I felt no desire for any other faith: and my determination is to go through, let it cost what it may; the fire I will endure; for I want all evil burned up, that my soul may be filled with Mothers pure love and union, which is the strength of all Her faithful children in heaven and on earth; and this I consider the greatest blessing I can enjoy. And I am thankful that I ever heard the sound of the gospel, and made it my choice; for it will save my soul, through time and thro' eternity, if I am faithful to obey it; and it is my determination to be faithful to the end, that I may find a place with Mothers faithful children, where my soul will be purified from a carnal nature, by following the example of Christ & Mother. I do feel thankful to my good Elders, and to all my gospel friends, both East and West. And I can say of a truth, I feel thankful for the privileg I have had, of being an instrument for Mother; it feels to me the greatest I ever enjoyed; far greater than I feel my self worthy of. But I will be humble & low, & labour to honour my calling.

Polly Eastwood.

Declaration of faith &c, by Polly Ball. Water Vliet, Ohio. Sept 30th 1841.

I was born Sept 3d 1814, in the State of Ohio, Clark County. When I was in my fourth year, my Parents received faith in the gospel of Christs second appearing. And on the 10th of Feby, 1818, they moved with their family, to Water Vliet. I being so young, recived neither faith, nor conviction; neither had I any understanding of the gospel that was made known through our ever blessed Mother. But I knew it was my duty, to obey my Parents, until I was of lawful age. And feeling greatly indebted to Believers, for their kind care and protection over me, when I was young and un mindful of the many kindnesses and blessings they bestowed on me, do now, with heartfelt gratitude, kindly thank all my gospel friends where ever they be, for keeping the gospel for me, until I was able to receive a measure of faith & understanding for my self: When I began to feel the need of bearing a daily cross, in order to keep a justified spirit before God. Now I can say of a truth, that a justified conciencs is more to me, than mountains of gold; and can bear testimony of the blessed effects of the gospel in my soul; for it teaches me to forsake my own ways; and leads me in the straight and narrow path of selfdenial.

Now I will express my feelings, when I heard of Mothers work which had begun in the East. It greatly awakened my mind, and I began to wish, Mother would make her appearance in the West. And in the course of that year our beloved Ministry went to New-Lebanon on a visit: While they were there, they sent a letter back home, and in it, a message, that Mother was coming to the West. Then I began to consider whether I was fully prepared to meet Mother; I said to my self, why should I fear to meet Her; I know I have confessed my sins honestly; for in the spring of 1837, we received a gift of humiliation and repentance, and while I was engaged in this labour, my Elders gave me a gift to search my self, and hunt up every sin that I had ever commited, and bring them to the light; for, said they; you have heretofore done it, in obedience to what you have been taught, not feeling that it was a duty God required of every soul, before they could stand justified before him.

I then laboured for true conviction and repentance, until I gained it; I then went to the Order of God, and confessed every sin, as it came to my view; & I can say, I then felt comforted and blessed, for I believed I stood justified before God.

But when Mother came, and began Her work among us, She informed me through one of Her instruments, that She wanted me to come down and humble my self; for, said Mother, I have a great work for you to do: I the and there fell on my knees, and prayed to Mother, to enable me to do Her work, just as She wanted me to; for I felt willing to make any sacrafice under the Heavens, to gain Mothers power: but I was not as yet, a fit vessel for Mothers spirit to dwell in.

Now while I was in a labour to find out what was yet wanting in me, to make me a fit vessel for Mother to work through; we one and all received a mess age from Mother, to again enter into the purifying work of the gospel, and to honestly confess every thought, word, and action, that was contrary to the pure nature nature of God. I then, through deep mortification confessed my whole sinful life; for Mothers work made me feel very little and mean: But I can say I feel truly thankful that I was enabled to stand the purifying work of Mother, for it has been like a refiners fire, and Fullers soap, to my soul; for it burns up every vain desire, and fills the soul with pure and heavenly love.

Now I will express my thanks to my kind Elders, for their charity

and kindness to me, for had it not been for the mercy and goodness of God, shown through them, to me; what would I have been worth? for I was lost in a sinful nature, but by their godly example they have shown me the straight and narrow path of self denial, for which I do feel thankful; and I do intend to prove my thankfulness by my obedience. But how shall I express my thankfulness for the privilege I have had, of being one of Mothers instruments. for be assured, that I count it the greatest privilege that I ever enjoyed, and I am determined to be faithful in it: tho tribulation and persecution, may roll on like a flood, I will stand unshaken and firm to the end.

O yea, I will be thankful, for Mothers tender care,
O yea, I will be prayerful, and keep a Godly fear,
For I am sure and certain, good Mother will me bless,
If I will but be faithful, and stand the gospel test.

Polly Ball. ——

Declaration of Emily Patterson. October? 1841

I was born in the State of Ohio Hamilton County, and city of Cincinati, 1825 July 12th. My parents brought me among believers, at Union Village, when I was two years of age, and I have still remained with them ever since.

When Mother commenced her work in this place, I was then in my fourteenth year; I felt very anxious to gain the gifts and power of Mother, but I knew I could not be blessed with the gifts of God, until I had put away all that was evil. This I did, to the best of my understanding, and felt thankful for the privilege. I often prayed to Mother to help me keep the fear of God, and walk in obedience to what I was taught, for I knew if I did not keep the fear of God, I should not be able to keep my justification.

I was greatly blessed with Mother's pretty gifts, yea, my soul was filled with the power of God, and I felt like there was nothing but what I could freely sacrifice to do the will of Mother, and to gain a a substance for my soul that would enable me to withstand all trials

and difficulties that I knew I must meet. I loved Mother's work with all my heart and soul, and it was my labor to increase in it every day, and to treasure up every good gift, for they felt more precious to me than any thing that I had ever felt before.

I feel thankful that I have such a privilege; yea, it is a great privilege to be called to obey Mother's gospel, while I am young, and to lay up a treasure in heaven that will endure forever. It is my faith and determination to walk in the path of obedience, and keep every order; for in no other way can I ever be blessed, or be protected from sin.

I am thankful the way is so strait and narrow, that nothing but honesty can ever stand: yea, I am thankful for this great and blessed day. And it shall be my labor to improve my privilege and to treasure up the good counsel of my Elders, which I receive from time to time. I feel thankful I have such good Elders, to teach me the way I should go to shun the snares of the enemy;— O could I but sense my day & privilege as I ought to, I would find enough to do. I mean to be faithful to the end, that I may gain a crown in heaven.

Emily Patterson.